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## DIGEST

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LeBas

HB No. 517

**Abstract:** Provides protection for individuals and public entities that elect not to provide certain health care services.

Proposed law allows a person, or public employer, or public entity, to elect not to provide certain health care services that violate its conscience. Further protects persons from punitive measures such as liability, discrimination, adverse employment action, prejudice, or general damage for refusing to provide certain health care services.

Proposed law provides that proposed law shall not prevent any employer or patient from inquiring whether a person, public employer, or public entity declines to participate in certain health care services.

Proposed law provides that when a patient requests certain health care services, a person, public employer, or public entity shall identify in writing, its declination to provide those services in accordance with proposed law.

Proposed law provides that the provisions of proposed law shall not be construed to relieve any health care provider from providing emergency care as required by law.

Proposed law defines "conscience" as a sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction.

Proposed law defines "health care service" to be limited to abortion, dispensation of abortifacient drugs, human embryonic stem cell research, human embryo cloning, euthanasia, or physician-assisted suicide.

Proposed law requires that a suit brought for a violation of proposed law be in accordance with R.S. 23:303.

(Adds R.S. 40:1299.35.9)

### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure to the original bill.

1. Provides for an employer or patient to inquire whether a person, employer, or entity declines to participate in certain health care services due to an objection of conscience.
2. Adds a procedure for the notification of a declination of services.
3. Changes the definition of "conscience" to a sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction.
4. Changes the definition of "health care service" to an illustrative, but not exclusive list of certain procedures.
5. Requires suits for a violation of proposed law to be brought in accordance with R.S. 23:303.

House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

1. Restricts the application of proposed law to public employers and public entities.
2. Limits the definition of "health care service" to abortion, dispensation of abortifacient drugs, human embryonic stem cell research, human embryo cloning, euthanasia, or physician-assisted suicide.